

Recycling Public Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, April 16, 2014

Location: DELDOT Central District Conference Room, 930 Public Safety Blvd, Dover, DE

Members present: BJ Vinton, Chairman (CSWSC)
Marianne Cinaglia (DeLEASI)
Marjorie Crofts (DNREC)
Kelly Davis (Educator, DelTech-Owens Campus)
Michael Fusca (Alcohol Beverage Industry)
Stan Mills (League of Local Governments)
Julie Miro Wenger (Del. Food Industry Council)
Mike Parkowski (DSWA)
Coralie Pryde (League of Women Voters)
Bob Ziegler (Waste Hauler Industry)
Paul Bickhart (Recycling Industry)

Members absent: Dick Cecil (DE Association of Counties)
George Danneman (Soda Beverage Industry)
Brenna Goggin (Delaware Nature Society)
Basil Kollias (DE Chamber of Commerce)
Carrie Leishman (Restaurant Industry)

Non-members present: Jim Short (DNREC)
Nancy Marker (DNREC)
Allen Thienpont (Waste Industries)
Kurt Pilarski (Waste Management)
Kim Foster (DNREC)

BJ Vinton called the meeting to order at approximately 1:40 P.M.

Public Comments - None

Approval of Minutes March 24, 2014 Meeting

Julie stated she was not present at the meeting. The March minutes were unanimously approved with this edit.

Yard Waste Letter

BJ stated he had a recent conversation with Senator Peterson and she indicated that the JFC was recommending \$240k in support of the Polly Drummond Yard Waste starting in FY 15. Bob Z. commented that this was an unprecedented subsidy and that doing so makes it difficult for the private sector to offer competitive yard waste collection services due to the loss of economy of scale. After reviewing the content of the existing draft and in light of this recent funding support, BJ said he would modify the yard waste letter by emphasizing the need to develop a closure plan for Polly Drummond as it is both expensive to maintain and not sustainable and that the private sector needs to be afforded the opportunity to address the management of yard waste as cost effectively as possible. BJ will send out the modified letter for the council to review and comment on. DNREC indicated it was abstaining from this issue.

Legislative Happenings

The Senate Natural Resources Committee did not act on HB 198, a bill that would have deleted the sunset date for large stores to provide collection stations for plastic bags, and instead sent it back to the House after the committee learned that the House did not hold committee meetings on it or the amendment to the bill that

continues to prevent local governments from implementing a plastic bag ban or a fee on bags. Julie asked if DNREC was going to propose a new bill and Marj said she would look into it and report back to the RPAC.

RPAC Membership Vacancies

BJ announced that the restaurant industry position candidate needed to update their application but hopefully they will be able to attend next month's meeting. He added that the Governor's office is working with the Chamber of Commerce to fill that vacancy. Several other Members' terms expire this coming August.

Recycling Market Update

Mike P. discussed that the winter weather has had a negative impact on compost sales because of the delay in farmer's ability to field apply the compost in a timely fashion. Paul reported that OCC is down about \$15/ton at a value of \$115/ton, office paper is down about \$5/ton at a value of \$160/ton and ONP remained unchanged at \$65/ton (all values are mill prices). BJ spoke with Bob Anderson of Re-community and Bob indicated that prices were "decent" but the residuals levels were up due to the unusually wet winter weather causing an increase in their disposal rate.

Old/New Business

Jim S. reported the Division of Libraries recognizes that recycling opportunities in libraries throughout the state are hit or miss and is interested in having their Statewide Council of Libraries work with RPAC on expanding recycling opportunities within the state libraries as well as conduct recycling education. BJ commented that there are other targeted areas, like state government office buildings as one example, where RPAC should focus on recommendations for expanded recycling opportunities.

Marj reported that the City of Wilmington will be requesting a loan out of the Delaware Recycling Fund for their PAYT program. RPAC grant subcommittee members agreed to review the prior request and determine not only what concerns we may have with the application but also what impact such a large encumbrance will have on the next grant cycle.

Marj also pointed out that RPAC has a reporting obligation under 7 Del. C. §6056(2) due to the General Assembly November 1, 2014 regarding an assessment of the progress toward meeting the established diversion goals as well as recommendations additional mechanisms that should be implemented to achieve those goals.

Marianne expressed an interest in the implementation of commercial recycling and there was discussion of the fact that we're still in the first year of implementation and that both the recycling diversion rate and waste characterization studies need to be done before we'll have a thorough understanding of how effectively the commercial sector has implemented the comprehensive recycling program requirement.

Stan stated he would like the next grant cycle to be a topic of conversation at the May RPAC meeting.

Additional Public Comments

None

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2014 at 1:30 at a location to be determined.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.